

# Blackfoot Water Supply Report

## March 8, 2023

**Montana Water Supply Report data as of March 1, 2023 (from NRCS):**

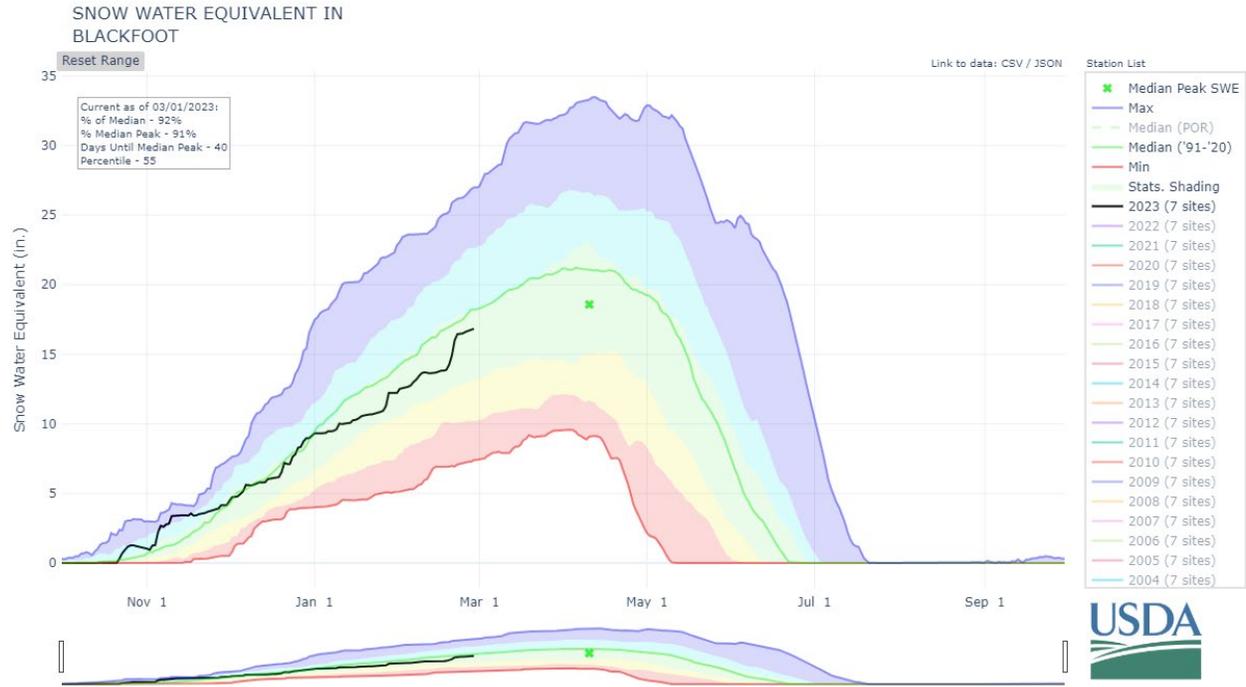
<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/wcc/home/quicklinks/states/montana/waterSupply/>

### **Overview**

After a largely dry January led to declines in basin-wide snowpack, above normal precipitation the month of February brought some timely rebounds to much of Montana including the Blackfoot sub-basin. Overall the Blackfoot saw a 5% increase in snowpack over the month of February bringing our total snowpack to 98% heading into March. Within the basin, SNOTEL sites north of Lincoln continue to show that area lagging behind the rest of the basin with only 70-75% of normal snowpack for this time of year. Across Montana, most basins are reporting normal to above normal conditions. Outliers with below normal snowpack occur along the border with Idaho (Big Hole, Bitterroot, Lower Clark Fork).

With only two more months of typical snowpack accumulation left, preliminary water supply forecasts are now available. Forecasts at this point for the Blackfoot river call for just slightly below normal flows. Active weather patterns through the month of March will be necessary to ensure that we stay on track in terms of water supply. The short- and medium-term outlooks for this month are predicting below average temperatures and above average precipitation for March, while the three-month outlook predicts below average temperatures and normal precipitation through May.

# Blackfoot River Basin Snow Water Equivalent



**Black line: 2022/2023 Water Year**

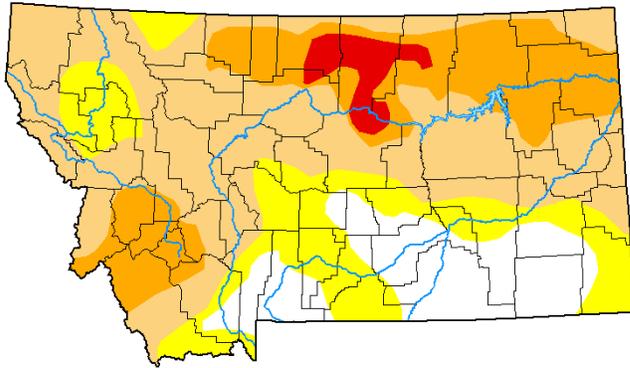
**Green line: 30-year median**

## Reservoir Storage

Reservoir storage has not changed much in the last month, remaining slightly below normal for this time of year in Western Montana reservoirs. Nevada Creek Reservoir is currently at 38% capacity, 4% below the level it was at this time last year.

Upper Clark Fork	Current (KAF)	Last Year (KAF)	Median (KAF)	Capacity (KAF)	Current % Capacity	Last Year % Capacity	Median % Capacity	Current % Median	Last Year % Median
Georgetown Lake	27.6	27.0	28.5	31.0	89%	87%	92%	97%	95%
Nevada Creek Res	4.7	5.3	6.3	12.6	38%	42%	50%	75%	83%
Lower Willow Creek Reservoir				4.9					
Silver Lake									
East Fork Rock Creek Res	8.3	8.4	8.8	16.0	51%	53%	55%	94%	96%
<b>Basin Index</b>					<b>68%</b>	<b>68%</b>	<b>73%</b>	<b>93%</b>	<b>93%</b>
# of reservoirs					3	3	3	3	3

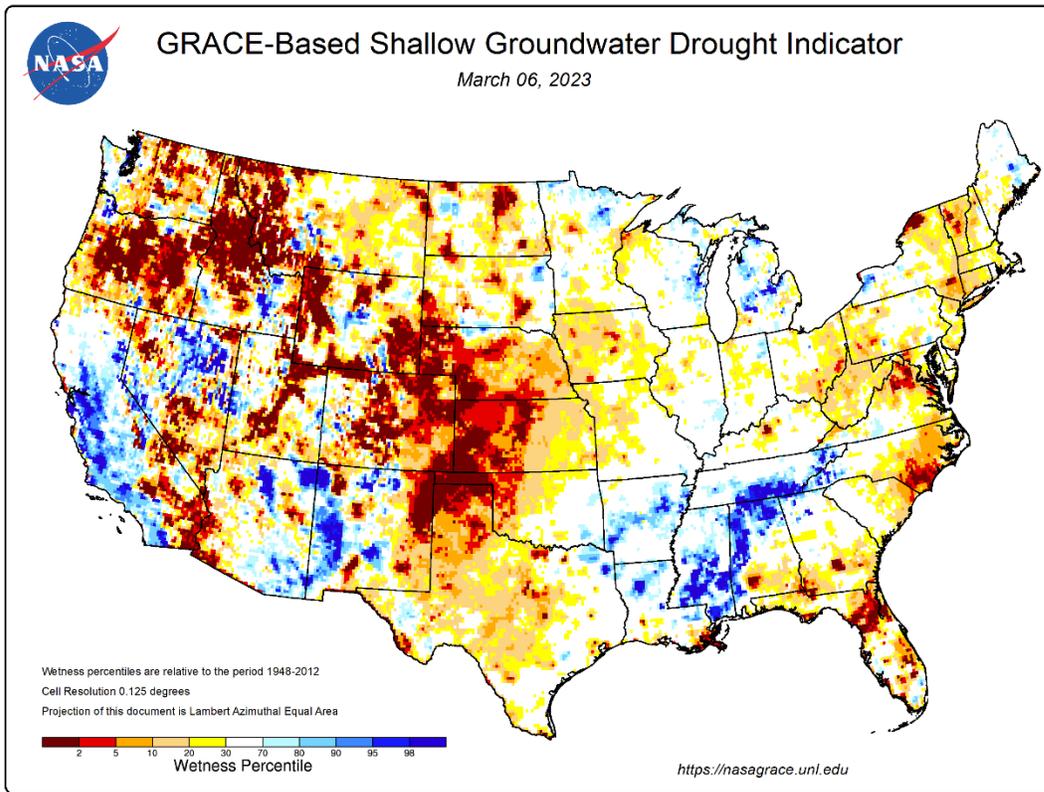
## Montana Drought Monitor – March 2, 2023



### Drought Intensities

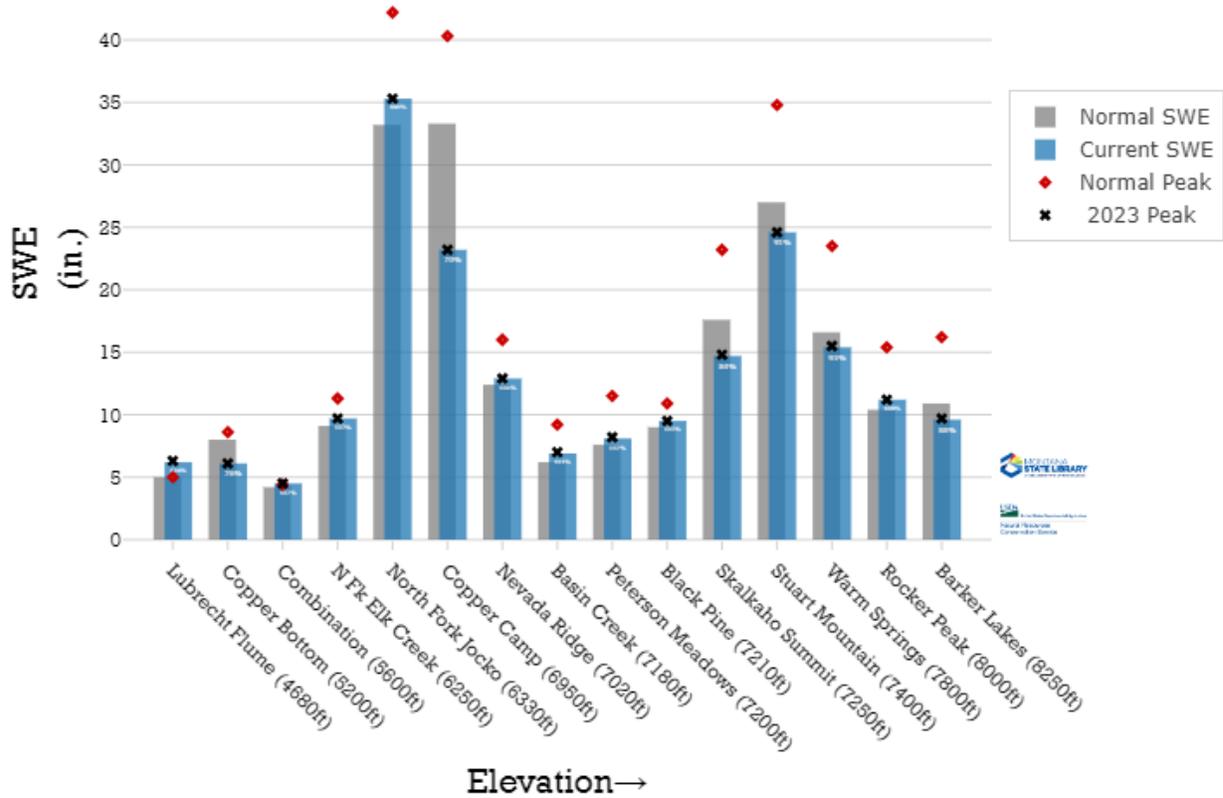
- None: No Drought
- D0: Abnormally Dry
- D1: Moderate Drought
- D2: Severe Drought
- D3: Extreme Drought
- D4: Exceptional Drought

## National Root Zone Soil Moisture – March 6, 2023



**Montana SNOTEL Snow Water Equivalent (SWE): March 1, 2023**

UpperClark  
Snow Water Equivalent  
2023-03-01



**March 8, 2023 USGS Real Time Stream Flow Conditions**

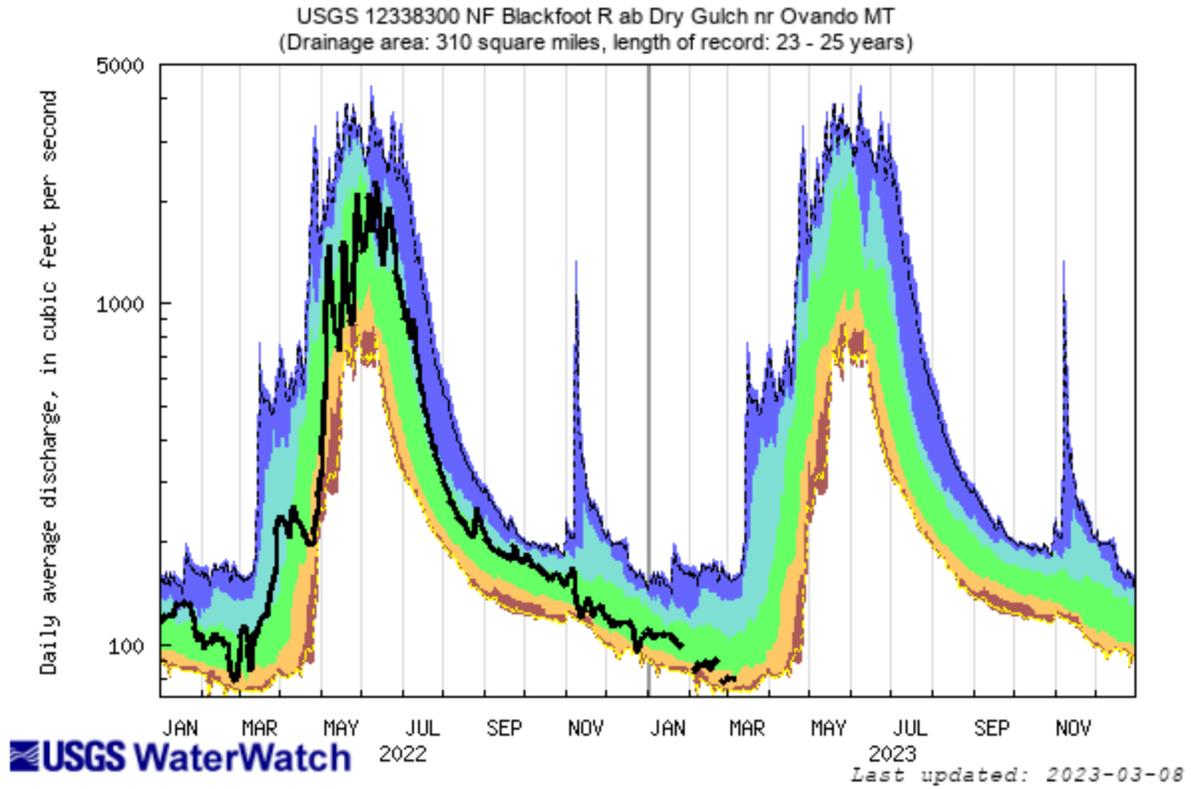
**Nevada Creek above Reservoir**

NO READING DUE TO ICE

**North Fork Blackfoot**

Discharge, cubic feet per second

Most recent instantaneous value: 78.6 on 3/8/2023 at 08:00 MST



**Blackfoot River at Bonner**

NO READING DUE TO ICE

**Blackfoot River above Nevada Creek**

NO READING DUE TO ICE

# Three-Month Outlook: March 2023

From  
National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center

<http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/>

Chance for below normal temperatures for  
March through May.

Average precipitation likely for March through  
May.

